

This is a report on the trip to Hereford, Texas made by Carlton Whitehead and John Wittman on April 22, 1971. Enclosed with this document is a map showing the path of the tornado. Also attached with it is a copy of the newspaper dated April, 22, 1971 which has extensive coverage of the damage of the tornado.

While we were in Hereford, we talked with the city manager, Mr. Dudley Bayne, a Mr. Fodor who is with the Red Cross, and another man who was doing work for the SBA out of the Lubbock office. We did not visit with the Civil Defense Director, but his name is Thompson and the city manager indicated that Mr. Thompson went to the wrong place during the emergency; that is, he went to the courthouse and all the efforts were directed out of the city hall. Mr. Bayne indicated that the civil defense director being at the wrong place and staying there was probably one of the best things that could have happened.

From the Red Cross we got the information that there were twenty-two injuries, five requiring hospitalization; there were three homes destroyed, twenty-one homes with major damage (which they defined as being a roof gone), and eighty-six homes with minor damage. There were nine trailers destroyed and three trailers damaged. There were six small business that were either damaged or destroyed and in total there were one hundred and forty-nine (149) families suffering some degree of loss. The oral descriptions of the tornado were to the effect that it came from the direction of Muleshoe reportedly touching down around Lazbuddie, a small rural community to the south of Hereford, and that it then approached from the south and proceeded on almost a direct north-south line. It first approached the ground in a small residential area south of the highway between Canyon and Friona (Highway 60). In this area, the predominant population was Mexican

American and this is the area where most of the trailers sustained damage. The tornado continued to the north and all of the business firm damage was restricted to firms located along Highway 60. The only firms that I saw that had any extensive damage appeared to be a restaurant servicing the bus station, a concrete mix plant, and an automotive garage. I did not ask for a list of the business firms but they were very highly localized,

The tornado then continued to the north and the path of destruction was restricted to two streets, Star Street and Avenue K. These streets run parallel-the tornado appeared to have stayed pretty well between those two boundaries. This tornado was described as being a "white " tornado; that is, there is no evidence that it actually touched the ground but rather skimmed along at treetop height and damage was primarily restricted to roofs. The slides that were taken along Star Street and Avenue K show extensive roof damage and in some cases walls were taken out, fences down, but very few houses demolished as previously indicated (the Red Cross indicated only three). The tornado continued to the north and went entirely through the residential area,

The city manager expressed some dissatisfaction with the Office of Emergency Preparedness located in Denton, Texas, specifically with a Mr. Broussard. Mr. Broussard came to inspect the extent of the damage and it is my understanding that he came of his own initiative, that he was not invited by the city of Hereford. His attitude was why were they wasting his time, why did they call him out on such a small disaster they really hadn't suffered such a great loss, and therefore it certainly would not qualify as a major disaster. Mr Bayne indicated that he had not invited him and was not unhappy to see him leave and described Mr. Broussard in rather specific and almost eloquent terms.

There does appear to be substantial discrepancy in the services provided in different types of disaster. It would certainly appear that those people whose homes were damaged or destroyed may have suffered equal damage on an individual basis as that suffered by any family in the Lubbock tornado, but because the damaged area was but a small portion of the residential area of Hereford and virtually no business or public damage, the Office of Emergency Preparedness did not play a roll. It was not declared a major disaster by the President, and therefore all aid was limited to that provided by the SBA which did declare it a disaster area under the jurisdiction of the administrator of the Small Business Administration. Other aid was being provided by the Red Cross, the emergency division of the religious group called the Seventh Day Adventists, and aid rendered by surrounding cities. For example, Lubbock sent a number of patrol cars and firefighting equipment to the city of Hereford.

Under the conditions of the disaster being declared by the SBA, the people did not qualify for the twenty-five hundred forgiveness nor was the corp of engineers called in to do clean-up. All the clean-up was provided on the local level essentially by local contractors. Hereford feels that they can bring about their own recovery. I am sure that they feel somewhat discriminated against, but they certainly werer already at work getting the roofs patched and replaced and everything taken care of. There didn't appear to be any major problems. The city manager indicated only the one-that anytime you have a disaster of any sort there is always an influx of people to do roofing work. He suggested that with a pick-up truck and a roll of roofing paper, you could qualify as a roofing contractor and unfortunately unless some effort were made on the local level to regulate the activities of these people, that many people would receive inadequate

work and repair of the damage that they had sustained, The city manager had taken steps to try and solve that problem,

There was continuing evidence from the Red Cross that they have changed their program from that which we had encountered before the beginning of the year. That is, Red Cross is referring everyone to the SBA and to any other agencies that are available and telling people that they must exhaust all their resources before they can provide grants to them, and a part of those resources is the SBA, which means that people must go in and make application. If they do not qualify for the SBA loan and there are no other agencies that can provide them with the money that they need, then they come back to the Red Cross. This appears to be the policy that the Red Cross is going to take in terms of providing grants.

There was no requirement for temporary housing and that the area effected was small enough that all the people have found temporary shelter with friends and relatives,